## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

IN RE: Case No. 21-15113-VFP

M.L.K. Federal Building SUPPORTIVE HEALTH LLC,

50 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

Debtor.

December 7, 2021

11:19 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION TO DISMISS CASE AND MOTION FOR TURNOVER OF PROPERTY

BEFORE HONORABLE VINCENT F. PAPALIA UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT JUDGE

## **APPEARANCES:**

For the Debtor: By: CARLINE BOLIVAR, Pro Se

85 Sycamore Road

Jersey City, NJ 07305

For the Creditor, Becker LLC

For the Creditor, Eric Raymond Perkins: By: JUSTIN BAUMGARTNER, ESQ.

354 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 1500

Livingston, NJ 07039

For the Creditor, City of Milwaukee

Cit of Milwaukee: By: HANNAH JAHN, ESQ.

Assistant Attorney City Hall, Room 800 200 East Wells Street Milwaukee, WI, 53202

Audio Operator: Mariela Primo

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THE COURT: Six, seven and eight, Supportive Health  $2 \parallel LLC$ , 21-15113. There's a motion to dismiss, a motion by the debtor's principal. There's a motion for turnover by the Trustee, and there's an objection, and then there's also a  $5\parallel$  cross motion by Supportive Health to vacate an order shortening time and staying proceedings until really today, so that's kind of moot. So, can I have appearances, please?

MR. BAUMGARTNER: Good morning, Your Honor, Justin Baumgartner, on behalf of the Chapter 7 Trustee.

THE COURT: Good morning.

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MS. JAHN: Good morning, Your Honor. This is Hannah Jahn, Assistant to the Attorney for the City of Milwaukee.

THE COURT: Okay. Good morning.

MS. BOLIVAR: Good morning, Your Honor. My name is Carline Bolivar. I filed a motion as a creditor of Supportive Health LLC, and I'm also the sole member and principal of Supportive Health LLC.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. BOLIVAR: I'm a creditor by way of \$366,000 capital that I invested in Supportive Health LLC. That investment is documented in the operating agreement that I submitted to the Court in my motion to dismiss.

THE COURT: Okay. Just so you understand, and this is part of the reason why it's good to have counsel, is that what you just said demonstrates that you are a equity holder or a member owner of the LLC and not a creditor. Okay?

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There's a big difference between equity and ownership status and being a creditor. You correctly identified yourself as the owner of the equity pursuant to the operating agreement,  $5\parallel$  assuming that's the latest operating agreement, but it did not  $6 \parallel -- \text{ did not correctly identify yourself as a creditor, based on}$ what I know.

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I haven't seen any other evidence of indebtedness, but, in any event, we have a motion to dismiss the case by Ms. | Bolivar and the cross motion by Ms. Bolivar to vacate an order shortening time, which is really moot, and stay the motion until the Court decides the motion to dismiss, which is all 13 going to be decided today.

So, those -- that's really moot and that's taken care of, so it makes sense to me to deal with the motion to dismiss first, because if we -- if the case is dismissed, then there's no turnover, but if not, then there would be, then we'll go 18 forward with the turnover motion.

So, Ms. Bolivar, I see that you indicate that you want the case dismissed, essentially because the filing was unauthorized. Is that correct? You didn't authorize the filing?

MS. BOLIVAR: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: That's the principal -- or is it -- is 25 $\parallel$  there another ground -- well, the other ground is that there

are other assets available to pay creditors, right?

MS. BOLIVAR: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I'm sorry?

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MS. BOLIVAR: I filed a motion to dismiss the 5 bankruptcy as the bankruptcy is void ab initio. The motion to 6 stay and the motion to vacate the order shortening time are all dependent on the motion to dismiss, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, then I see that the -- you know, the trustee takes issue with many of your -many of your statements, but I -- myself, I'm going to look at -- let's see. One second here. I don't know. Where is it 12 now? Okay.

Now, this case was filed back in June of 2021 by -purportedly by this Lento Law Firm, and then what happened was it was discovered that Mr. Perrault, who has the same address as you, Ms. Bolivar, was filing the papers using their credentials without their authorization. That's why they 18 withdrew, and that was back in August, and on August 18th, you 19 wrote to the Court and an email that was delivered before the hearing, which I don't believe you attended, on August 19th at 8:45.

You said Supportive Health LLC has been made aware 23 that its bankruptcy filing is in jeopardy of being dismissed 24 $\parallel$  because of effective -- ineffective counsel. Given the time --25∥ the money and time that Supportive Health has already invested

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 $1 \parallel$  towards the bankruptcy, it would not be just to dismiss the  $2 \parallel$  bankruptcy without giving Supportive Health an opportunity to be represented by competent counsel, and then you say you want 30 more days to retain new counsel. That doesn't sound like the bankruptcy was unauthorized, Ms. Bolivar.

MS. BOLIVAR: It was never authorized, Your Honor. Ι never signed anything about -- in this.

THE COURT: No, no. But you can say that to me that you -- that you can say that to me, but what is in the record and before the Court is what you also said to me in August, when you didn't want the case dismissed and you spent a lot of time and money invested in the bankruptcy. Isn't that contradictory, at least?

MS. BOLIVAR: I did not sign that letter, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The letter came from you. It says, Sincerely, Carline Bolivar, from the same email address and then, Ms. Bolivar, your --

MS. BOLIVAR: (Indiscernible).

THE COURT: -- your papers are devoid, conspicuously devoid of any message -- any mention of Mr. Perrault. about all the things that he did?

22 MS. BOLIVAR: So, Your Honor, the motion to dismiss 23 mention everything.

THE COURT: No. It does not. It doesn't mention Mr. 25 Perrault.

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MS. BOLIVAR: Yes, it mention Mr. Perrault.
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             THE COURT: Well, what -- did you say to Mr. Perrault
   is not -- does not live in the same address as you?
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             MS. BOLIVAR:
                           (No audible response).
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             THE COURT: Does it say that Mr. Perrault wasn't the
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   one that transferred these properties into Supportive for no
   consideration? Does it address those issues at all?
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             MS. BOLIVAR: It mention -- my motion to dismiss says
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   (indiscernible) Mr. Perrault.
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             THE COURT: Yes, I know.
             MS. BOLIVAR: Mr. --
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             THE COURT: Yes, that's -- that's okay. That's a --
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   I understand, but that doesn't answer my question. Then on --
14 then on October 13th, you wrote to the Court again, and in that
   letter you said the case was initially filed as a Chapter 11
   bankruptcy to give Supportive Health LLC an opportunity to
   restructure its debt.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor, my phone is dying. I have
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19 to switch to another phone.
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             THE COURT: Okay.
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                               (Pause)
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             MS. BOLIVAR: Yes, Your Honor.
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             THE COURT: Yes. So, on October 13th you wrote to
24 the Court again, as I said. I think I -- I think you've heard
   this already, but it says this case was initially filed as a
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Chapter 11 bankruptcy to give Supportive Health an opportunity  $2 \parallel$  to restructure its debt. That doesn't sound like it was an unauthorized filing either.

And then you said to me -- I said to you that you  $5\parallel$  said Supportive Health has other assets and if I'm -- and to 6 pay the debt that's owed, and the sentence is, the bankruptcy -- the information used by the Chapter 7 bankruptcy is flawed. Supportive Health has -- LLC has assets. Supportive Health LLC has funds to pay the debt owed, and you say the same thing in your certification, essentially, but there's no support for any of that, except for the other asset, the other property that 12 wasn't disclosed.

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor, the bankruptcy was not filed by an attorney. The attorney of record, Mr. Joseph Lento, advises that his credential was stolen, and that all of the petition and all of the schedules were filed by a lone attorney, Mr. Perrault Jean-Paul.

THE COURT: Right. But now what -- see, this is what 19∥I'm concerned about, right? This is what I'm concerned about, 20 Ms. Bolivar. I am concerned that the proceeding was adversely impacted by the improper conduct of Mr. Perrault, who -- which has not been denied ever by Mr. Perrault, who I emphasize is at your same address and is the one who transferred these two properties, which are, apparently, the only principal assets of this LLC, into the LLC for no consideration, and he's also on

the lease, and there's no mention of Mr. Perrault.

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So, from these papers, it is easy for me to infer, if  $3 \parallel$  not find, that the bankruptcy was very directly and intentionally authorized and was not just by Mr. Perrault's  $5\parallel$  words, but by yours, and that the scheme was uncovered, and now 6 that the scheme was uncovered, it's being used as a reason to dismiss the bankruptcy, and I don't -- I'm not going to allow that in my courthouse. I -- in my court room. I will consider evidence that is appropriate evidence, but without anything from Mr. Perrault and just your certifications that directly 11 contradict your letters and directly contradict what has 12 happened in the case to date but are consistent with a pattern of delay that has been prevalent in these case -- in these proceedings with the City of Milwaukee since 2016, I have no basis to dismiss this case right now. I have basis to continue it. I have -- my concerns are highlighted by what I have -are heightened not highlighted, are heightened by what I'm 18 hearing and what I'm being told.

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor -- sorry about that. Your 20 Honor, (indiscernible) to file document, resolution to file Chapter 11 Subchapter V, reorganization is not mine. Court compares that signature to the signature on any of my signed or on my U.S. passport, which I sent a copy to Mr. Juan.

THE COURT: Yes, I got -- I have --

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor --

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THE COURT: I have the passport. It's -- I have the
2 \parallel passport, but I still don't have anything from Mr. Perrault,
  and I don't have anything about the relationship between you
 and Mr. Perrault and whether you authorized Mr. Perrault and
5\parallel that was what you intended to do as is evidenced by these
  letters, and then when it went bad, you decided to change
  course.
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MS. BOLIVAR: The principal and sole member of Supportive Health never authorized the filing, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Well --

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MS. BOLIVAR: Signed any of the documents of the  $12 \parallel$  filing and created the resolution to file bankruptcy.

THE COURT: Well, how about --

MS. BOLIVAR: -- (indiscernible) --

THE COURT: Then why did you tell --

MS. BOLIVAR: -- (indiscernible) --

THE COURT: Why did you tell me on October 18th that 18 the case was filed as a Chapter 11 bankruptcy to give Supportive Health an opportunity to restructure its debt?

MS. BOLIVAR: I did not write the letter.

THE COURT: No. Okay, but the letter is from you. It's signed by you and then in August you did -- it's the same thing, and so then now it seems like the delay is being taken advantage of again and then dismissed so everybody has to start all over again.

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I'll hear from -- I understand your arguments.  $2 \parallel$  can tell that I'm not very convinced by them, but I'll hear from any other party that wants to be heard now. Probably the trustee and the City of Milwaukee.

MR. BAUMGARTNER: Thank you, Your Honor. Justin Baumgartner for the Trustee. I would just sum up. All this fraud or most of this fraud occurred before the Chapter 7 Trustee before we even got appointed in this case.

Mr. Perrault Jean-Paul impersonated an officer of 10 this court, for electronic filing privileges and then filed 11 various documents, and that's the whole reason this got to us 12 in the first place, and then once it did get to us, we proceeded to do our job, and we've looked at the two properties for sale, we put insurance on them, and the Trustee paid for that.

So, we've already expended substantial efforts in 17  $\parallel$  this case based on, you know, the past -- what's happened. 18 past law of this case. So, we think there's no reason for this 19∥ case to be dismissed. We think that it's a really -- a lot of bad faith and potentially fraudulent conduct on the part of the debtor's principal and definitely Mr. Perrault Jean-Paul and we'd like to proceed.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Ms. Jahn?

Thank you, Your Honor. This is Hannah MS. JAHN: Jahn. The City of Milwaukee has been in good contact with the

Trustee, and we agree with their method of moving forward in  $2 \parallel$  this case. We believe that this case would best satisfy the interest of the City of Milwaukee in collecting its debts.

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As you can see from the letter that the City filed  $5\parallel$  with Mr. Baumgartner, the City has been unsuccessful in moving these cases forward in Milwaukee County Circuit Court despite our best efforts, and so it appears to me the bankruptcy case would be the best way to resolve these issues quickly.

THE COURT: All right. But, Ms. Jahn, so you're saying you're opposing the dismissal and want the case to continue in Chapter 7? Is that basically it?

> That is correct, Your Honor. MS. JAHN:

THE COURT: And then I'm a little -- I know there is a tortured history, but I'm a little unclear on exactly where it stands, because it looks like you have a judgment for 79,728, which includes interest at 4.5 percent, but Ms. Bolivar indicates that there has been a proceeding by Mr. Perrault to 18 somehow vacate that judgment, or do you consider that --

MS. JAHN: Yes, Your Honor. So, the judgment that the City has is against Mr. Perrault Jean-Paul himself, and the way that Supportive Health got involved in the Milwaukee County case is, as stated in our letter, the City obtained the judgment against Mr. Jean-Paul, just a matter of like a few days or weeks after he transferred his property to Supportive Health in 2016.

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And so in the 2017 collection matter, the City named  $2 \parallel$  both Mr. Perrault and Supportive Health as parties under the assumption that it was a fraudulent transfer for the purpose of avoiding paying the debts, and so we do not have a judgment  $5\parallel$  against Supportive Health, per se. It's just that we believe that it's wrapped up in that fraudulent transfer, and so, therefore, they were included as a party in the 2017 lawsuit, which is --

THE COURT: And so, that -- is that the one where 10 there is proceedings to -- I don't know. My question was is the judgment that you have just against Perrault Jean-Paul is 79,000, is there a proceeding to vacate that or otherwise 13 modify that or is that still in effect?

MS. JAHN: Technically, yes. For the 2016 case, the judgment is issued against Mr. Jean-Paul himself, and there's also a lien placed on the property. And when those properties were transferred via quitclaim, we believe the lien is still in 18 place against those properties, even though they had transferred ownership. So, the 2016 case, Mr. Jean-Paul filed multiple motions to reopen, which were unsuccessful. different circuit court judges denied those motions to reopen. He did not appeal that case.

Instead, he's been active in the 2017 lawsuit, which is the City's collection case, in bringing up his defenses to collection in that matter, and then even while that case was

open, he filed a 2020 lawsuit against the City of Milwaukee 2 essentially asking the Circuit Court to vacate the prior judgment, so we called that our collateral attack case.

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It is a -- I mean, technically, it's possible in  $5\parallel$  state law to do such a thing in certain circumstances, but the -- in the City's position that is a matter that is completely barred by claim preclusion, and so our motion to dismiss in that case is still pending.

So, yes, he is still -- Mr. Jean-Paul is still disputing the City's judgments, but from the City's perspective, it is a final judgment, and it's not -- it's not likely that -- from our position, that he's going to be successful in overturning that judgment.

THE COURT: Then what about this promissory note from Supportive Health in Jean-Paul Perrault? Is that still --

MS. JAHN: Your Honor, that was --

THE COURT: Is that still in effect?

That was -- I'm not personally aware of MS. JAHN: 19 the status of that. I think that might be a better question for Ms. Bolivar, but the City's contract counsel who's handling the 2017 lawsuit did depose Mr. Jean-Paul, and that's what affects come regarding that -- regarding that promissory note.

And so at that time, it was presented to Mr. Jean-Paul that the dates didn't line up, and there was some question on the part of the City as to the voracity of that document,

 $1 \parallel$  but no court has yet made a finding as to that document. 2 don't know if that answered your question.

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THE COURT: Yes. Okay. But, anyway, there's a  $4 \parallel \text{promissory note for Supportive Health to provide } 61,500 to Mr.$ -- \$61,500 to Mr. Jean-Paul for the purchase of the Eden Place property, but -- okay. But that's the property he also transferred to Supportive, so, all right. Ms. Bolivar, do you have any --

MS. JAHN: Your Honor, just quickly.

THE COURT: Go ahead. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

MS. JAHN: Oh, I'm sorry. I think -- and I don't 12 want to testify, but I'm just trying to be helpful to the Court 13 by providing the facts as we believe them, but I think relative 14 to those issues would be the quitclaim deeds and the real  $15\parallel$  estate transfer (indiscernible) that are attached to the City's letter. I mean, that indicates the buyer and seller of the property and how it was recorded as a -- the related party transfer.

THE COURT: Right. Right. Okay. Ms. -- do you say 20 it Jan or John, or how do you pronounce that?

MS. JAHN: It's Jahn (pronouncing). It's like John with a Y.

THE COURT: Jahn. Oh, okay. So just -- I'm not sure 24 why the letter came through the Trustee, but you're certainly welcome to file papers directly with the Court.

I know it was -- it says at the beginning of the 2 letter to the -- it's to the Trustee and -- but it's to provide the Trustee and the Court with a background, but you could -you know, you can file papers directly, and I won't -- you 5 know, I invite you to do so.

So, Ms. Bolivar, do you want to respond to any of that?

MS. BOLIVAR: Yes, Your Honor. So it's clear that the case must be dismissed, because Mr. Jean-Paul, he's not an 10 attorney.

THE COURT: Well --

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MS. BOLIVAR: Okay. Dismiss -- this bankruptcy was 13 filed in bad faith, and it's unauthorized -- unauthorized by a 14∥ third party. It wasn't authorized and not by me. I should not be penalized for that. I should not be penalized for it, Your 16 Honor.

THE COURT: Well, okay. I guess you don't want to 18 address that other than to say that you didn't sign those 19∥ letters. You don't want to address those letters that you said 20 the exact opposite.

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor, the case was not filed by 22 an attorney.

THE COURT: Yes. You see, that's what I was trying 24 to get at before, that it looks like there's an attempt to benefit from a fraud that was being perpetrated. All right.

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This matter is before the Court on a motion filed by  $2 \parallel \text{Ms. Carline Bolivar, the debtor's asserted principal and one}$ hundred percent owner, to dismiss this case under 707(a) on the grounds that the filing was not properly authorized and was 5 made by an unauthorized filer.

And then also there's a motion filed by the Chapter 7 Trustee, Eric Perkins, to compel the current tenants of one of the debtor's real properties and Mr. Jean-Paul Perrault -- I thought -- is it Jean-Paul Perrault or Perrault Jean-Paul? I'm not clear on that. I thought is was Jean-Paul Perrault.

Well, I'm going to call him Perrault -- to turn over 12 any rents that he has received from the debtor's property post-petition and a cross motion by Ms. Bolivar to stay the turnover motion until the motion to dismiss is decided.

Well, I can dispose of that very quickly, as indicated, because they are heard at the same time, so that is moot.

The parties in interest have filed objections and 19 $\parallel$  replies to the motion to dismiss. Ms. Bolivar filed the limited objection to the motion for turnover on the ground that it should not be heard of -- ahead of the motion to dismiss, and also today submitted a copy of her passport, that the Court has and has reviewed, and it's another -- it is another document that indicates signatures do not match, but, well, I'll deal with it.

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The debtor filed this voluntary case as a Chapter 11 2 on June 22nd, 2021, almost five months ago, over the electronic signature of Carline Bolivar, who has indicated is the -- is asserted to be the debtor's one hundred percent owner, pursuant  $5\parallel$  to an operating agreement that was submitted with Ms. Bolivar's affidavit -- certification.

The case was allegedly filed by the Lento Law Group as its counsel, but they subsequently indicated that various documents were filed on its behalf, using its electronic I.D. without its authorization, so they were permitted to withdraw on the grounds of a very, very serious conflict with the 12 client.

The debtor's primary assets are two real properties in Wisconsin, one at 229 East Eden Place in St. Francis, Wisconsin -- I'll call it the Eden Place or St. Francis property -- and 3629 South New York Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That's the Milwaukee property, collectively of the -- and collectively refer to them as the properties.

The debtor filed as a single-asset real estate entity, initially, a small business, and as a Subchapter 5, but amended its schedules on July 11th to designate itself as a small business.

The debtor scheduled the St. Francis or Eden Place property but not the Milwaukee property and has not amended its schedules to date to include the property, although Ms.

Bolivar's certification does seem to indicate that there are  $2 \parallel$  other properties that are not accounted for on the debtor's schedule.

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The Trustee conducted a site visit to both properties on October 13th, 2021 and noted that there was a tenant at one of the properties. The petition lists the debtor's operating address as 72 Van Reipen Street, #353, in Jersey City, and the only other scheduled assets were \$2,400 about in cash and \$1,300 in accounts receivable.

The Court notes that a meeting of creditors was originally scheduled for August 4th, '21 then rescheduled for August 11th of '21 and then again for September 1st, all apparently by or purportedly by debtor's counsel, but later it was determined that debtor's counsel had not made those filings, that they were instead made by Mr. Perrault using those -- using their I.D. information.

The case -- about two months after the case was filed 18 on August 11th and 12th, the Trustee filed an order -- a request for an order shortening time for hearings to convert or dismiss the case on various grounds but not just the lack of insurance, but that the docket was corrupted, the case was corrupted by unauthorized filings by Mr. Perrault and the request for shortened time was made. A hearing was held on the 12th to schedule those matters, and it was scheduled for the 19th. No one attended on behalf of the debtor at those

 $1 \parallel$  hearings, even though they were all noticed and invited to 2 attend on the 12th and the 19th.

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The U.S. Trustee discovered, by independent research, that Ms. Bolivar and Mr. Perrault share a residence, 85 -- at  $5 \parallel 85$  Sycamore Road in Jersey City, New Jersey, and that's another fact that has not been denied by Ms. Bolivar or Mr. Perrault and is also confirmed really by papers filed with the Court and Ms. Bolivar also uses the Van Riepen Road address for the letters.

Mr. Perrault was the original owner of both 11 properties. He apparently purchased the St. Francis property on December 7th, 2012 and transferred it to the debtor by quitclaim deed on February 17th, 2016 just as the City of Milwaukee was obtaining a judgment against him and the property, which a judgment was ultimately entered. property was scheduled with a value of \$182,000.

Then there was the Milwaukee property that was 18 purchased in 2003 by Mr. Perrault and transferred to the debtor by quitclaim deed on February 17th, 2016. Both the transfers were for no consideration. Again, none of that has been denied or any contrary proofs offered by the debtor.

As a result of the certifications and other evidence 23 presented at the August 2, 2021 hearings, it was determined 24 $\parallel$  that Mr. Perrault had electronically filed the petition himself with credentials he had obtained from the Lento Law Group and

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even though the Lento Law Group had been paid some monies for the filing and acknowledged as much.

Then the U.S. Trustee also noted in its original and supplemental submissions that Ms. Bolivar had not provided  $5\parallel$  proper identification to the U.S. Trustee to allow her to provide testimony for the debtor at the meeting of creditors in an initial test -- in an initial debtor interview, and that her signature on the corporate resolution appeared to be different from the signature on two Wisconsin State Court documents, and, as pointed out in the -- those are documents evidencing various transfers with the same property involving Mr. Perrault.

So, at the conclusion of the August 19th hearing, the Court converted the case to one under Chapter 7 and also entered the order for conversion on August 19th, 2021.

The Court denied the retention application of the Lento Law Group, which sought to withdraw from representation by also order entered on August 19th on the basis of the basis 18 of the improper filings by Mr. Perrault.

As I started out these proceedings in connection with both those matters, Ms. Bolivar sent emails to the Court on August 19th with a letter dated August 13th -- August 18th, 2021 on Supportive Health letterhead that says Supportive Health has been made aware that the bankruptcy filing is in jeopardy of being dismissed because of ineffective counsel. here -- there Ms. Bolivar's expressing concern that the case

will be dismissed, and now she's asking for the case to be dismissed.

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Given the money and time that Supportive Health has already invested towards the bankruptcy, it would -- now Ms.  $5 \parallel$  Bolivar is claiming that the bankruptcy was unauthorized, but in her August 18th letter she's saying that the money and time has been invested towards the bankruptcy, and then again it would not be just to dismiss the bankruptcy. So, arguing that the bankruptcy should be kept in place and just asking for another 30 days to retain counsel, she -- that would put us into around September 19th. No counsel was retained. Bolivar indicates that she was looking for counsel, and no one 13 would agree to represent the -- Supportive Health.

Then also on October 13th, Ms. Bolivar wrote to the Court again on the Supportive Health's letterhead that the Lento -- about the inability to find an attorney, but in there she also said -- but she's looking for an attorney to represent Supportive in the case. Again, completely contradictory with the notion that the case was -- the filing itself was not authorized.

And then the second paragraph says, the case was initially filed as a Chapter 11 bankruptcy to give Supportive Health LLC an opportunity to restructure its debt. Nothing wrong with that. That's what Chapter 11 filings are for.

The problem with the -- the problem arises from the

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position that is now being taken that the filing was  $2 \parallel$  unauthorized, and this letter signed by Ms. Bolivar indicates, again, directly the contrary.

So, then also conspicuously absent from the 5 submissions that -- made by Ms. Bolivar is any mention of her relationship with Mr. Perrault, even though they live at the same address, even though Mr. Perrault transferred his properties to Supportive Health for, apparently, no consideration, even though Ms. Perrault [sic] claims she contributed 366,000 to Supportive Health when the properties had already been conveyed for no consideration.

All these things caused a great deal of concern and pause by the Court and in -- and a real concern that another fraud is attempting to be perpetrated on the Court.

As noted above, the Trustee paid a site visit to the 16 Wisconsin properties on October 13th and filed a notice of assets on the 14th and applied for a realtor to -- to retain a 18 realtor to sell both properties. The Trustee noticed that 19 there was a tenant at the St. Francis property and communicated with that tenant in order to have the rents turned over to the estate.

I should note again in that October 13th or 14th letter Ms. Bolivar said she wants more time to obtain an attorney, another 30 days. That would put us into November and there was no attorney retained, and that the debtor disputes

its debt to the City of Milwaukee.

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Now, the debtor -- you know, the debtor disputes its debt, but, really, the debt arises from a claim against Mr. Perrault, and the judgment is against Mr. Perrault making the absence of Mr. Perrault from any of Ms. Bolivar's papers, which were prepared in a manner that they would be prepared by a lawyer, more in doubt.

Bolivar, again, as noted, nowhere in her August or October submissions to the Court did she indicate that the case should be dismissed as an unauthorized filing, and, also, Ms. Bolivar refused to submit to a 341 meeting, and the Trustee's 12 demand for documents, again, no dispute as to that.

On November 2nd, Ms. Bolivar moved on behalf of the debtor, apparently without counsel, although, as I note, the papers appear to have been prepared with the assistance of counsel to dismiss the case on the grounds that she did not review the petition or authorize its filings.

Ms. Bolivar appears to be the one hundred percent 19 $\parallel$  owner of the debtor, although what remains unclear is why Mr. Perrault would have contributed to properties to the debtor for no consideration without some kind of ownership interest and why all the dealings with the property, including not just the City of Milwaukee but also the tenants, are with Mr. Perrault. In fact, the lease is with Mr. Perrault.

As noted, Ms. Bolivar attached to her motion the

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debtor's August 8th operating agreement indicating a principal 2 place of business of 85 Sycamore Road in Jersey City, which is Ms. Bolivar's residence with Mr. Perrault, and then that 72 Van Reipen Street address in Jersey City of the registered agent, that's the address also that appears on the petition.

The operating agreement indicates that the sole member and manager was Roderick Sanders, who contributed \$25,000 in capital while Ms. Bolivar contributed 366,000. Again, that's a lot of open questions there as to how that all occurs.

But, anyway, it appears that at least it's asserted 12 $\parallel$  now that Ms. Bolivar is this debtor's sole owner, but it's unclear how that happened or how or what was the reason for the 14∥ transfer of the two properties to Mr. -- for Mr. Perrault to the debtor if for no consideration other than the -- what City of Milwaukee says, which was to attempt to avoid the collection of the judgment against Mr. Perrault.

Ms. Bolivar states she's been unable to obtain 19∥ bankruptcy counsel because of the history of the case. That she is the creditor of the debtor, however, as we pointed out at the beginning of this hearing, she herself indicates she's an equity holder, and her investment in the debtor, which makes her an interest holder not a creditor, said she was not aware when the debtor acquired the properties from Perrault that they were subject to municipal liens, and that she has chronic

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1 health issues that require treatment and leaves her bedridden  $2 \parallel$  and did not have a chance to review or sign the petition before its filing and was not aware of its contents.

Apart from those positions, Ms. Bolivar's 5 certification contains many contradictory statements about the extent to which knew about the bankruptcy and what she wants to do with the debtor, and she says in Paragraph 18 she was not privy to the filings and was not aware of any deficiency in the filings, which is directly contradicted by her August and October communications to the Court.

On August 22nd, to my surprise, I received notice 12 from the Lento Law Group that it was withdrawing from the case, also contradictory to the claim that the filing wasn't authorized. What that indicates is that the Lento Law Firm was authorized to do the filing, and she was surprised that it was withdrawing from the case, that the Lento -- again, confirming that Paragraph 23, the Lento Law Group -- the Lento Group was hired to deal with stress of bankruptcy Chapter 11, so I can reorganize the debt of my company and reduce stress. Again, completely contradictory.

Then also argues that because the Lento Law Group did 22 $\parallel$  not file the petition, it should be dismissed, but that was -that issue was really raised at the beginning of the case in offense and that the reason for the Trustee's motion -- the principal reason for the Trustee's motion in addition to the

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insurance, which now apparently is in place either through the  $2 \parallel$  debtor or the trustee or both, that they were unauthorized filings.

There was an attempt to do the bankruptcy filing and  $5\parallel$  then for whatever reason, the -- Mr. Perrault went around the 6 Lento Law Group and, therefore, was allowed to withdraw, and the Chapter 7 Trustee was appointed.

Ms. -- despite again what was said at the beginning of the hearing by Ms. Bolivar, she says the debtor has the ability to repay its actual debt in full right now, but there's no proof of that. There's no papers, no bank accounts, no anything, unless there are things that weren't disclosed in the petition, and she -- and then again, in Paragraph 34 it kind of in concluding the debtor should be given an opportunity to file a new Chapter 11 bankruptcy with competent legal representation.

So, you know, the -- let's just disregard all that 18 | happened before, make believe it didn't happen, and then file a 19 $\parallel$  new case that at some point in the future undetermined.

And she also complains that the -- that there are unidentified assets, which she -- that she should have supplemented when she should have provided to the Trustee but refused to do so either in documents or appearing at the 341, and she complains that the Lento Group did not perform the services for which it was hired, which was to file the

1 bankruptcy petition.

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The Trustee filed a short -- filed objections on  $3 \parallel \text{November } 30 \text{th} \text{ and December } 3 \text{rd}, 2021, \text{ that the } --\text{ with the}$ December 3rd letter, including a letter from city council for  $5\parallel$  the City of Milwaukee, explaining its long history with the debtor, Perrault, and even Ms. Bolivar with respect to notarization of various documents relating to the property.

The City indicates that Mr. Perrault is the owner of the St. Francis property, incurred certain municipal charges, and -- on several Wisconsin properties, and after the City filed a complaint against Mr. Perrault, he transferred the 12 property to the debtor, after the -- the City filed a complaint in January of '16. He transferred the property to the debtor for no consideration on February 17th, 2016 by quitclaim deed, money judgment was obtained on 61 -- for 61,624.29 against Mr. Perrault in March of '16, and then there was a foreclosure action when -- after the City learned of the transfer to the debtor in November of 2017 against the -- Mr. Perrault and the debtor.

The City notes that Ms. Bolivar notarized at least three documents related to the St. Francis property in 2012, '16, and '18, with a notary stamp that perpetually stated expired in September of 2019, even though notary stamps in New Jersey are generally good for five years -- only five years, and the money judgment is now at 79,782, which the debtor

scheduled at a higher number.

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Again, Ms. Bolivar argues that the case should be dismissed as an unauthorized filing, that she did not sign the petition of schedules, and she can't continue without representation through counsel, although that is addressed in many ways by the Trustee being in place and safeguarding the property of the estate for the benefit of creditors and to the extent there's equity interest holders.

The -- as indicated, I -- the Court finds that the statements that the filing was unauthorized are repeatedly contradicted by Ms. Bolivar's own statements and actions and appear to be a new version of events created for -- to support the dismissal. There is simply no way the Court can dismiss the case under those standards -- under those circumstances.

The Trustee cites In Re Jong Hee Kang, 467 B.R. 327 at 335, which provides that the right to dismiss under 707(a) is not an -- is not absolute and the debtor must establish cause. The overarching concerns are good faith of the debtor 19 and prejudice to creditors.

There's another standard, <u>In Re Turpen</u>. Set forth in In Re Turpen, 244 B.R. 431 at 434, Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, 8th Circuit (2000), which has a six-factor test to determine whether to grant voluntary dismissal of a Chapter 7 case, which is -- separates a lot of what's in the Jong Hee Kang test, but whether all creditors have consented, that the answer to that

is no.

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Milwaukee wants the case to continue in Chapter 7, whether the debtor is acting in good faith. That's in both -a factor in both cases, and I have no ability to find the 5 debtor's acting in good faith. I do see many indices of bad 6 faith, and I don't -- and I'm not going to have our courthouse and our court used for those types of purposes.

Whether dismissal may result in prejudicial delay to payment of creditors, it seems like that's the purpose of this, that's been going on since 2016, five years, to delay the 11 payment to the City of Milwaukee.

Whether the dismissal would reorder creditor 13 priorities, it would have no effect, so that's not applicable.

Whether there's another proceeding to which creditor claims could be handled. There is the Milwaukee case, but that's been stalled for years by motions for reconsideration and vacating judgments, now this bankruptcy. So that's 18 neutral.

Whether the debtor moved for dismissal on the face of 20 pending litigation. Here there's an application to turn over the rents, and the debtor's moving after having received the benefit of the stay and invoking the Bankruptcy Court's jurisdiction under -- with the prior filing, which Ms. Bolivar, I find her statements in her letters, even though she indicates 25∥ now she didn't send them, to be directly contradictory, and I

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just -- I'm not -- I have no way to determine that those are  $2 \parallel \text{letters that weren't sent by her, although if they were sent by}$ Mr. Perrault, they would certainly -- at least a possibility that it was done knowingly, and again, the omission of Mr.  $5 \parallel \text{Perrault from Ms. Bolivar's papers, as they say, the silence}$ speaks volumes.

Further, the debtor has a duty to disclose and correct the schedules under 521(a), and she has refused to do so. So, that's more evidence of bad faith.

So, in this case, all those factors militate against 11 dismissal under the two tests I cited, but I'm also holding 12 that the debtor is equitably estopped from disavowing the petition, because the debtor retained certain benefits of the bankruptcy or may be deemed to retroactively have ratified the petition through the bankruptcy case.

And for that I cite In Re Willis where a debtor was alleged to -- a debtor's Chapter 13 case was alleged to have 18 been filed without a signature and -- but, however, the 19∥creditor began filing stay relief motions, which the debtor opposed, and a motion to dismiss and convert was filed, which was granted.

And so -- and the debtor moved to reconvert to Chapter 13, so the Court said, even when she moved to dismiss and they're -- saying she never authorized the position or the conversion of the case, the debtor -- the Court denied the

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dismissal, and the debtor appealed. That's 345 B.R. at 649 to 650.

And the -- on the appeal, the Bankruptcy Court -- the 4 District Court -- I'm sorry -- the Appellate Panel affirmed the denial of the debtor's motion to dismiss finding she was collaterally -- the debtor was collaterally estopped from rejecting the petition after she waited six months to make an issue of the unauthorized filing, received the benefit of the stay, and had made submissions to the Court without addressing the alleged unauthorized nature of the petition and generally manifested a disrespect to creditors, all of which appear to be 12 present here or are present here.

And, similarly, In Re Segal, 527 B.R. 85 at 88 Bankruptcy Eastern District of New York (2015), appeal dismissed 557 B.R. in 2016, the debtor -- the Bankruptcy Court denied the debtor's motion to dismiss a Chapter 7 petition that he did not sign, but his attorney electronically signed for him 18 to -- so as to prevent a foreclosure sale.

The trustee began to investigate the asset, requested documents, and moved to sell the debtor's property. The debtor then moved -- objected and attended a sale hearing but still didn't tell the Court that he believed the petition should be dismissed as unauthorized. The debtor was also ordered to  $24\parallel$  comply with his duties as a debtor, but the debtor refused to do so and then moved to dismiss.

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The Bankruptcy Court determined the debtor did not  $2 \parallel$  authorize original counsel to place them in bankruptcy, and that but, nonetheless, the debtor ratified the petition by voluntarily signing an amended petition and participating in 5 the case, and that the debtor was equitably estopped from denying the petition, because he tended to reap the benefit of any stay to prevent a foreclosure sale, and the Trustee expended substantial resources in administering the case before the debtor moved to dismiss. 527 B.R. at 93.

Here, there is similar lapses that -- there's been about four months from the petition date to the motion to dismiss, and here those factors are very much present in all of them. There's -- as the case has been pending for five months before the unauthorized filing was alleged. There are numerous prior indications that the filing was, in fact, authorized and -- including statements by Ms. Bolivar herself and the relationship between Ms. Bolivar and Mr. Perrault. So for all 18 those reasons, the Court is denying the motion to dismiss.

The only opposition to the Trustee's turnover motion was that it should await the dismissal -- the dismissal motion, which we now have done, and other than that, there's no opposition. And, as I noted, the lease is with Mr. Perrault not the debtor, so further demonstrating the very close relationship between Mr. Perrault and the debtor's St. Francis property.

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There's a 12-month residential lease commencing on 2 March 1st and expiring on February 28th, 2022, in which Patrick and Jennifer Newbury are lessees. The Trustee argues that the lease should be deemed void ab initio and that the rent should 5 be turned over to the Trustee.

I don't know why the lease would be deemed void ab initio, and, certainly, the Newbury's, you know, should -- had no knowledge of any or there's no indication that they had any knowledge of this, but I do agree that the rent should be turned over to the Trustee as property to the estate.

The Trustee indicates that he advised the tenant of 12 the Trustee's position in October, and that the tenant agreed to turn over but asked for a court order to protect the Newbury's from Mr. Perrault attempting to file an eviction action for non-payment, and that the Trustee also seeks to turn it into a short-term use and occupancy agreement. That the Trustee can do in his discretion subject to, you know, whether 18 the Court approval is acquired -- required. I'm not going to say that. It seems like it might be in the ordinary course but might as well -- if the Trustee is entering into a new agreement, might as well just submit it to the Court for approval.

The Trustee is going to continue to market the  $24 \parallel$  property but not close the sale until after the debtor -- the Newbury's tenancy is terminated, and, you know, there's clearly

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1 \parallel -- the rents are property of the estate under the broad
 2 definition of property of the estate of -- under 541, and
  therefore, they should be turned over to the Trustee.
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             That's the Court's ruling. Mr. Baumgartner, the --
 5\parallel you have submitted an order. Can you -- well, we'll do the
 6 order denying the motion to dismiss for the reasons set forth
   on the record. I might have some small changes to the form of
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   order that you submitted just by way of just clarifying
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   changes, and that's it. That's the Court's ruling.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: Excuse me --
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             MR. BAUMGARTNER: Thank you, Your Honor.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: -- Your Honor?
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             THE COURT: Yes?
             MS. BOLIVAR: Hello?
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             THE COURT: Yes.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: Excuse me, Your Honor.
             THE COURT: Yes.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: May I say something?
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             THE COURT: Yes.
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             MS. BOLIVAR: I can pay the debt that's due.
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             THE COURT: Yes, well --
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             MS. BOLIVAR: I would like maybe to pay the debt --
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             THE COURT: Yes.
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MS. BOLIVAR: -- to avoid any further complication or

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liquidation.

THE COURT: Yes, so --

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MS. BOLIVAR: I am (indiscernible), sir, and I would like to be left without -- you will leave me without any source of my livelihood.

THE COURT: Well, so, here's the thing, Ms. Bolivar. As I noted, you said that, but you didn't provide any proof of that, and, certainly, if you want to pay the debts, but there's going to be administrative expenses of the Trustee in the interim, you can do that.

There's no problem with doing that, and, you know, 11 then the creditors might consent that there might -- but you 12∥ should talk to the Trustee about that. Just -- you know, that's what the -- the Trustee is in control of those properties now. So, you know, you can -- and you can still get yourself an attorney, and you can still -- that attorney can move to do whatever they want to do, but you can get an attorney for yourself, you know, personally if you're having trouble with getting attorneys to represent this debtor, which, 19∥you know, is not -- I'm not completely shocked that -- to hear 20 you say that, because there's a very bad history here.

So, you know, you can -- like I said, you can pay it -- you can always pay your debts. There's no problem with paying debts, and if you have the means to do so, then that's up to you, and you should go ahead and either talk to the Trustee or get an attorney to talk to the Trustee, and take

1 care of it. Okay?

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MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor, what about the disputed debt?

THE COURT: Well, I mean, the disputed debt -- you  $5 \parallel \text{know}$ , there's a judgment. I don't know. I don't know what to say. You know, the -- it's -- I don't know what debt you're talking about paying then. What debt are you going to pay?

MS. BOLIVAR: Everything minus 80,000.

THE COURT: But what is everything? I don't even know what it is. I don't know who all the creditors are. don't -- and I don't know what the basis is, is not to pay the 12 pay the City of Milwaukee. I don't know, and that would contribute to, you know, whether it -- that would contribute to 14 $\parallel$  whether the dismissal would be appropriate.

In other words, generally speaking, if a debtor pays all its debts, that would probably be a good reason to dismiss the case, but if it doesn't, then the creditor whose not going to be paid is going -- likely to object, so then you end up 19 staying in the bankruptcy.

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor, Milwaukee is the only creditor in the case.

THE COURT: Well, I don't know that. There's also a law firm that's a creditor. I just don't know. I don't know.

MR. BAUMGARTNER: Your Honor --

MS. BOLIVAR: Your Honor --

MR. BAUMGARTNER: -- the IRS filed a proof of claim 1 2 for 28,000. 3 THE COURT: Who did? 4 MR. BAUMGARTNER: The IRS. 5 THE COURT: Yes, then the IRS filed a proof of claim, so, you know, I think you need to -- like I said, you might 6 want to get an attorney to represent you in this, Ms. Bolivar. 8 I feel like you've been talking to an attorney, and maybe that 9 attorney will represent you instead of representing the entity. 10 MS. BOLIVAR: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. Here's the thing. You can't have 11 12 it every which way. You got to make some decisions. You can't 13 have it both ways. 14 You can't have the bankruptcy filing and then dismiss it -- and then seek to dismiss it unless, you know, that you meet certain standards. 17 You can't say you're going to pay all the debts and 18∥ then say you're not going to pay them. You got to decide which 19 one it is. Okay? 20 Thank you. Have a good afternoon. 21 22 23 24

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CERTIFICATION

I, JOY K. BRENNAN the assigned transcriber, do 3 hereby certify the foregoing transcript of proceedings on CD,  $4 \parallel$  playback number 11:19:19 to 12:24:11, is prepared in full 5 compliance with the current Transcript Format for Judicial 6 Proceedings and is a true and accurate compressed transcript of the proceedings as recorded, and to the best of my ability.

/s/ Joy K. Brennan

JOY K. BRENNAN

J&J COURT TRANSCRIBERS, INC. DATE: January 10, 2022